CONFIDENTIAL

Department of State EXDIS INCOMING TELEGRAM

(100)

PAGE 01 SAN SA 06438 281407Z 1183
ACTION ARA-16

INFO	OCT-01	ADS-00	INR-10	SS-15	CIAE-00	DODE-00	H-01
	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00	SY-05	HA-06	L-03	LAB-04
	PM-09	PA-01	SIL-01	INRE-00	CA-01	ICAE-00	SYE-00
	JUSE-00	SP-02	SPRS-02	/077 W			

------------------077716 281411Z /40

O 272358Z AUG 81
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5306

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 6438

E. O. 12065: GDS 8/27/87 (GETTINGER, CARL) OR-P
TAGS: PINS, PINT, CDES, ES
SUBJ: SOL MEZA UPDATE

REF: SAN SALVADOR 5991

1. (C) SUMMARY: THE INVESTIGATIVE JUDGE ("JUEZ EJECUTOR") IN THE SHERATON MURDERS CASE HABEAS CORPUS PETITION HAS RECOMMENDED THE RELEASE OF RICARDO SOL MEZA. A COPY OF THE JUDGE'S REPORT NOW GOES TO THE SUPREME COURT.

B1-EB

2. (U) ON AUGUST 27 ONE OF THE TWO PRINCIPAL SAN SALVADOR DAILIES CARRIED A FRONT PAGE STORY HEADLINED (LITERALLY) "INVESTIGATIVE JUDGE ORDERS THE FREEING OF SOL MEZA." THE ARTICLE CLAIMS THAT DR. JOSE ALBINO TINETTI, NAMED AS THE INVESTIGATIVE JUDGE BY THE SUPREME COURT IN RESPONSE TO A HABEAS CORPUS PETITION, HAD "ORDERED SOL MEZA'S RELEASE" SINCE THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT "MERIT" IN THE CASE AGAINST HIM. THE ARTICLE GOES ON TO LIST SOME OF THE GENERALLY KNOWN FACTS OF THE CASE. IN ADDITION, THE ARTICLE INCLUDES A PORTION DEVOTED TO IMPUGNING THE TESTIMONY OF TERESA TORRES. ONLY AT ITS END DOES THE STORY ACKNOWLEDGE THE FACT THAT IT IS AFTER ALL THE SUPREME COURT WHICH WILL HAVE "THE LAST WORD" ON RELEASING SOL MEZA, AND THAT THE "JUEZ EJECUTOR'S" ROLE IS IN FACT ADVISORY.

B1-EB

4. (U) MEANWHILE, ON THE PUBLIC FRONT, ANNOUNCEMENTS OF SOLIDARITY WITH SOL MEZA AND CHRIST CONTINUE TO APPEAR FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE NEWSPAPERS. MOST RECENTLY, ON AUGUST 26 THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF EL SALVADOR PUBLISHED AN ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING THE SHERATON HOTEL MURDERS. DECLARING SOL MEZA AND CHRIST TO BE "HONEST AND DYNAMIC SALVADORAN ENTREPRENEURS," THE AD HELD THAT THE ONLY BASIS FOR THEIR DETENTION WAS THE TESTIMONY OF ONE WITNESS. THE AD FURTHER STATED THAT, NOT ONLY HAD THE WITNESS'S TESTIMONY BEEN CONTRADICTED BY OTHERS, BUT HER COMING FORWARD AFTER THE AIFLD ANNOUNCEMENT OF A $50,000 REWARD, AND HER SUBSEQUENT DEPARTURE TO THE UNITED STATES ARGUED FOR THE FALSEHOOD OF HER STATEMENTS. CALLING THEIR DETENTION A "LEGAL VIOLATION" THE CAMBER DECLARED THAT NO VALID PROOF EXISTED AGAINST THE ACCUSED.
HINTON

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY KD DATE 8 JUL 1982
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED